

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01706 221251Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-10 L-03
NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-15 INT-05 DLOS-09 PA-01 /125 W
-----083126 230024Z /70

R 221215Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 516
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, PLOS
SUBJECT: GULF MARINE POLLUTION CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT: POSS-
IBLE IRAQI FOOTDRAGGING

REF: (A) 77 BAHRAIN 352, (B) EMBASSY KUWAIT MEMCON
(SHAIJI-SWEANY), JULY 2, 1977, (C) DRAFT KUWAIT
REGIONAL CONVENTION FOR COOPERATION ON THE PROTECTION
OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM POLLUTION.

1. KUWAITI MFA LAWYER HAS INFORMED POL OFF THAT KUWAIT WILL
HOST A MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONFERENCE APRIL 22-23 WHEREIN
MINISTERS FROM QATAR, BAHRAIN, UAE, IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA,
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01706 221251Z

OMAN, IRAN AND KUWAIT ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN FINAL VERSION
OF REF C (POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES, EXCEPT GENEVA AND DHAHRAN,
JULY 1977). THE CONVENTION PROTOCOL AND "ACTION PLAN" TO
PROTECT GULF MARINE ENVIRONMENT WILL ALSO BE OPNE FOR SIG-
NATURE. (WE HAVE REQUESTED COPIES OF PROTCOL AND PLAN AND
WILL POUCH ADDRESSEES WHEN AVAILABLE --DEPARTMENT FOR D/LOS
AND OES). KUWAITI MIN HEALTH AL-AWADI WILL HEAD THE KUWAITI

DELEGATION.

2. THE APRIL 22-23 CONFERENCE WILL BE PRECEDED BY AN
"EXPERTS" LEVEL MEETING IN KUWAIT (APRIL 15-21).

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CONFERENCE IS THE CULMINATION
OF SEVERAL YEARS OF EFFORT BY KUWAITI AND OTHER
ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND LAWYERS IN VARIOUS GULF GOVERNMENTS
WHO, WITH THE ADVICE AND SUPPORT OF UNEP, PRODUCED AN
AGREED DRAFT CONVENTION (REF C) AT THE EXPERTS LEVEL IN
JUNE 1977. SUBSEQUENTLY, A MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN
KUWAIT WAS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 1977, BUT WAS CANCELLED
FOR VARIOUS REASONS. ONE KUWAITI "EXPERT" HAS TERMED THE
DRAFT CONVENTION A "LITTLE SISTER" OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
MARINE ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENT WHICH UNEP PROMPTED
SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

4. WE HAVE IT FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THAT IRAQ IS NOT
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS CONVENTION, BUT WE HAVE BEEN
UNABLE TO OBTAIN A CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF THE IRAQI
MOTIVATION. ONE GOK SOURCE, WHO RECENTLY DISCUSSED THE
CONVENTION AND LOS MATTERS IN BAGHDAD TOLD POL OFF THAT THE
IRAQIS STILL SEEMED TO OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE TO GULF-WIDE
MULTILATERAL COOPERATION ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS. THIS SEEMS
TO ACCORD WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF IRAQI ATTITUDES AT THE
ILL-FATED GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN AUG. 1976.
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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 01706 221251Z

5. A POSSIBLY MORE SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO THE PRESERVATION
OF THE ALREADY DETERIORATING MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN THE
GULF, AS EXPRESSED BY "EXPERTS" HERE, IS THE LACK
OF POLITICAL WILL, TO SAY NOTHING OF INTEREST IN
ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION, ON THE PART OF KEY GULF
LEADERS. THERE IS DOUBT THAT THESE LEADERS WILL
APPROPRIATE AND USEFULLY SPEND THE CONSIDERABLE FUNDS
THAT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CLEAN UP THE GULF AND KEEP IT
CLEAN. IT IS ONLY FAIR TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT, IN THE CASE
OF KUWAIT, WE FIND INCREASING INTEREST AT ALL LEVELS OF
GOVERNMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING MARINE
POLLUTION. THE KUWAIT INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HAS
A DIVISION CURRENTLY STUDYING POLLUTION, PRINCIPALLY OF THE
MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN COASTAL WATERS. WE ARE TOLD THAT THESE
STUDIES WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL
STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES. ALSO, LAST WEEK THE
FLEDGLING KUWAITI ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY OPENED ITS FIRST
EXHIBITION, PATRONIZED BY THE MINISTER OF OIL.
MAESTRONE

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